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NEWS RELEASE

Stolen cars, industrial equipment and heroin found in bust by MVED Two Salt Lake men arrested

Investigators from the Motor Vehicle Enforcement Division (MVED) of the Utah State Tax Commission arrested two Salt Lake men when it was found that they had outstanding warrants and were in possession of heroin packaged for sale on the streets.

charging them with 2nd degree felonies relating to vehicle theft, drug possession. The couple allegedly produced a wide variety of counterfeit documents, all of which were very high quality according to officers conducting the search warrant. Hundreds of counterfeit Utah driver's licenses, ID cards, temporary vehicle registration permits, and personal and state-issued payroll checks were found at the residence along with stolen checkbooks belonging to Salt Lake residents.

MVED investigators believe that that couple stole checks or received stolen checks taken from mailboxes across the valley. Once the checks were in the possession of the couple, they were allegedly scanned into a computer or washed in a bath of chemicals allowing them to be reproduced or altered for the purpose of fraud. Computers were seized, which officers believe will lead to more charges, arrests and information on people using the stolen documents and IDs.

According to MVED, the drivers licenses were passable as authentic upon first glance, even including the new 2-d bar coding on the reverse side.

The couple's operation was discovered when a Utah Highway Patrol officer stopped their vehicle and ran what would turn out to be a counterfeit temporary registration permit number through the state computer records system. The resulting investigation and search warrant uncovered the large scale of the illegal activity and evidence that the couple has been supplying area residents with fraudulent ID cards in exchange for stolen checks. In addition to the charges relating to the counterfeit documents, the couple will also be charged with possession of a controlled substance, methamphetamines, and related paraphernalia.

The MVED is the division of the Tax Commission that regulates the auto industry and investigates motor vehicle fraud.

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